



Fly Friendly Zone (FFZ) E-Mail Update **July 2009**

Dear Falcon Neighbors and Tenants,

The City of Mesa's primary goal is to ensure Falcon Field is successful. We define that success by finding ways where representatives from the aviation community and neighbors are able to peacefully co-exist. We know there will be natural conflicts and competing interests among the aviation community, businesses and neighbors. Our objective is to find a balance in responding to those interests while also ensuring valid concerns for all parties are discussed and addressed.

As such, in April the City convened a "Falcon Stakeholder's Ad-Hoc Task Force." The task force includes three members of the community, three tenant representatives, one representative from Sabena, and City staff as resources and support. Summaries from these meetings have been posted on the City's website at http://www.mesaaz.gov/falcon_field/ffz.aspx

In late June and July, the task force members have been working with each other separately to refine a draft of reasonable strategies that they believe respond to both business and neighborhood needs. Once this draft is finalized by the task force, we will work to create a plan for the task force to begin sharing these ideas with the broader public. The task force's tentative goal would be to have this information available in early fall time period, though no specific dates have yet been identified.

In the meantime, the City has continued internal efforts, such as updating the Falcon Pilot's guide, installing noise abatement signs, participating in tenant and community meetings, adopting noise abatement guidelines, updating the FFZ website, creating an FFZ information line and on-line comment form, making a request to FAA to adjust the glide "slopes", and working with FAA to increase traffic pattern altitudes by 200 feet. In addition, the City has installed a new system that captures tower frequency radio transmissions from pilots in the Falcon Field airspace after the tower closes at night. Now, if we have someone who calls us with a specific time an activity occurred, the City will have a new tool to try to identify who was flying at that time for more direct follow up and discussions.

Future "FFZ e-mail updates" will continue as new information is available. If you know someone who wants to receive these updates and is not on our e-mail distribution listing, please ask them to call 480-644-6647 or to register via on-line form at http://www.mesaaz.gov/falcon_field/ffz.aspx The link to the comment form is provided in the right-hand corner. Thank you.